

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN Editor and Proprietor. CHARLES W. BRYAN Publisher.
 RICHARD L. METCALFE Associate Editor. Editorial Rooms and Business Office: 224-226 South 12th Street

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Mr. Rockefeller prefers to call the "rebate" a "drawback." But he did not find it so.

Ever notice any lapse in the memory of one of the Standard Oil company's collectors?

Up to date Broughton Brandenburg has not been accused of writing that alleged Kaiser Wilhelm interview.

The man who invented the gas meter died in Detroit last week. "The evil that men do lives after them."

The ways and means committee will recommend a reduction in the tariff on champagne and a duty on coffee.

The steamer Finance collided with a freighter, but it may be saved. Lucky it didn't hit a Wall Street reef.

The Standard Oil company managed to keep its little joker tariff schedule under cover almost as long as it did its political correspondence.

Just as soon as Mr. Roosevelt has made up his mind the New York legislature will perform the mechanical function of electing Mr. Platt's successor.

Charles P. Taft contributed \$110,000 to the republican campaign fund, some of it for presidential purposes but the bulk of it for senatorial purposes.

Mr. Rockefeller believes in the distribution of wealth, probably because it is easier to get a little away from each one of several million people than it is to get a big wad away from one individual.

A change of rules instead of a change of speaker is recommended by some administration organs. A change of political complexion would help congress—and the country—more than anything else.

We gather from numerous republican exchanges that Mr. Carnegie gave \$20,000 to the campaign fund of the g. o. p. because he was real sure that the party which owes its existence and continued success to the influence and support of the tariff barons will immediately turn right around and deprive those tariff barons of their reward for their support and contributions.

Mr. Cannon says he "is in hearty accord with his party on the matter of tariff revision." We thought as much.

Justice Harlan never courts newspaper publicity, but he is quite willing to make it known that he is not of a retiring disposition.

"When will we get tariff revision?" queries the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot. Very soon, but please don't ask us whether up or down.

The present day managers of the steel business would have us believe that Mr. Carnegie knows nothing about the steel business.

Isn't it a little late—the announcement that we will have to annex Hayti, not for our own good, but because we have become so awfully altruistic, don't you know.

PARAGRAPHIC PUNCHES

If the Gatun dam keeps on settling it might pay for the entire Panama canal.—Johnstown Democrat.

At any rate this country will again become a constitutional republic on the fourth day of next March.—Florida Times-Union.

The sad editorial tone of The Commoner continues to permeate even the humorous department.—Pittsburg Gazette-Times.

It is not wholly rash to assume that this Rooseveltian fervor for labor legislation is chiefly anti-Gompersian.—Boston Herald.

A good many people who become intensely interested in a political campaign are not interested a dollar's worth.—Nashville Banner.

We suppose the Outlook has ordered extra supplies of cap I's to meet the new conditions that will take place on March 5.—Houston Post.

While Mr. Rockefeller is willing to give his partners the credit, he never has neglected to draw his share of the profits.—Milwaukee News.

Son-in-law Nick remains to this day silent. He accumulated his'n at Rock Island, while the kaiser got his in London.—Birmingham Age-Herald.

If the country wants to do any legislating for itself in congress it will have to show Uncle Joe Cannon how he can be induced to let it.—New York Press.

"Will Tammany explain itself?" asks Mr. Bryan. No; we hardly think Tammany will. Tammany isn't given to explaining things.—Washington Herald.

Editor Mabie of the Outlook scolds the comic supplement. But for full justice to the subject we must wait till Editor Roosevelt takes hold.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Speaker Cannon has observed the way the wind is blowing the smoke of his cigar. He announces that he will henceforth favor a revision of the tariff.—Nashville Banner.

After reading that mild little editorial for which Carmack was killed one wonders what would happen to a Tennessee editor who really said something unkind about a colonel.—New York Press.

"When will we get tariff revision?" inquires the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot. When we get it; that's the nearest we can come to answering the conundrum.—Washington Herald.

Governor-elect Shallenberger, of Nebraska, sustained a fractured leg while being initiated into the Shriners the other evening, and now he is willing to swear that for equestrian purposes the democratic mule is as soft as a summer sigh compared with the Masonic goat.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

A subsection of President Roosevelt's country life commission is now in session in Richmond. We have known country life in Virginia intimately and well for a number of years. To our way of thinking there is not one-tenth the need of a commission to show Old Dominion farmers how to live as there is for a commission to teach Roosevelt how to mind his own business.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

WHO GETS THE MULE?

Phelps county, Nebraska, gave in 1904, Roosevelt 1,567, Parker 219. In 1908 it gave Taft 1445, Bryan 1238. A democratic gain of 551. A. Franzen of Funk, Nebraska, claims the mule for Phelps county and Divide precinct. This precinct shows a gain of 771 1-11 per cent.

Ansley, Neb., claims the mule because the precinct made a gain of 334 4-9 per cent.

Welcome, Minn.—H. A. Zettel reports that his precinct made a gain of 40 per cent.

Bartley, Neb.—F. M. Jennings reports that his precinct in 1904 cast 28 republican votes and 9 democratic votes. In 1908 it stood, 53 democratic and 29 republican.

Marston Moor, N. D.—Andrew Amick reports that Marston Moor precinct made a 1300 per cent gain over the Parker vote of four years ago. He adds: "We had only half the territory that we had four years ago so that is equal to 2,600 per cent gain. If that is not going some I do not know."

Benton County, Ia.—Victor G. Spencer of Walker, Ia., reports that the democratic gain in Benton was 500 over 1904. He adds: "I think we are rightfully entitled to the mule, but please don't send it as we have enough stubborn critters to deal with now."

Decatur County, Kansas.—The vote cast for the democratic ticket in Decatur county, Kansas, at the presidential election of 1896-1900 and 1904 was 524 votes or an average of 174 votes cast at each election. In 1908, 1,250 votes were cast for the democratic electors, or a gain of 712 51-82 per cent over the average. Roosevelt's plurality was 804 in 1904. Bryan's plurality was 352 in 1908; apparently 1,156 votes or 578 votes changed front, out of the total vote cast in 1908 in the county.

Platte County, Mo.—A. A. Miller of Platte City, Mo., writes: "Little Station precinct deserves the mule, I think, for it gave all of its vote to the democratic ticket—there being 63 voters. I venture to say it is the only precinct in the United States that gave all of its vote to the good cause. One consolation, I live in the midst of this precinct."

Cherry County, Neb.—I. M. Rice, Valentine, Neb., reports that Valentine gave Roosevelt in 1904, 186, Parker 50. In 1908 it gave Taft 34, Bryan 173. This is a gain of 325 per cent.

Parke County, Ind.—Shelby C. Puett of Rockville, Ind., makes this report. In this county in 1904 Roosevelt received 3,468 votes, Parker 2,176 votes, Roosevelt's majority 1,292. In 1908 Taft received 3,026, a loss of 442; Bryan received 2,707, a gain of 531; Taft's majority 319. Democratic gain of 973 votes. Only 89 more votes were polled this election than was polled in 1904, consequently the change was mostly with the voters that took part in both elections. This per cent of change, I think is worth notice and this is my entry in the distribution of the mule.

Lowndesville, S. C.—R. L. Smith writes: "The mule is mine. In our precinct there are about 275 votes and in that number there are about four republicans. There was not a republican vote cast in this precinct. I saw the four republicans here on election day but they voted the home democratic ticket; would vote for neither Bryan or Taft."

Inavale, Neb.—S. H. Johnson writes: "Of course we feel very, very much disappointed over the election, but glad of dear old Nebraska. And say, before you award that mule, don't overlook Catherton precinct in Webster county, always went republican, this year 2 to 1 democratic—republican 30, democratic 62. Are we not intitled to the mule? But we feel good the way it went, mule or no mule."

Hamlin, W. Va.—William Latin of Hamlin writes: "The mule ought to come to Lincoln county, we made pretty good gains and elected Joel Halley sheriff, something which has never occurred for years."

McIntosh, Minn.—W. W. Brown reports that his precinct cast, in 1904, 17 democratic votes and in 1908, 60 democratic votes.

Hendley, Neb.—Bryan Meyers writes: "I was born on the fourth day of October, 1896, and was named for you, am now twelve years old. I am very sorry to hear that you were again defeated. I saw in the Beaver City Times-Tribune, the enclosed clipping, and I think that I have a good claim for the mule." Following is the clipping: "Lynden precinct, Furnas county, has a good claim for the Bryan mule that is to be awarded to the precinct showing the largest democratic gain over the vote of 1904. The democrats four years ago cast 26 votes and this year 103, or a gain of a fraction less than 400 per cent."